

November 6, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

The MLW Blog: High court set to hear 'one parent' doctrine, waiver of right to counsel challenges this week

"A challenge to Michigan's 'one parent' doctrine and whether a criminal defendant effectively waived his right to an attorney are among the issues being argued before the Michigan Supreme Court on Nov. 6 and 7. In *In re Sanders Minors*, the father, Lance Laird, is challenging the state's one parent doctrine."

Full story

Also see:

Detroit Legal News: Father's challenge to 'one-parent doctrine' before Supreme Court (second article)

Full story

Jackson Citizen Patriot: Former Jackson County sheriff candidate says rights were violated in child custody case; Supreme Court to hear arguments

Full story

Associated Press: '95 robbery on docket at Mich. Supreme Court

Full story

Note: This Associated Press article also ran in the Alpena News, the Mining Journal/Marquette, WLNS-TV(6)/Lansing, the Republic/Columbus, IN, and other media outlets.

Father's challenge to "one-parent doctrine" before Supreme Court this week

Mother admitted she's an unfit parent in no-contest plea; dad argues her plea should not give family court jurisdiction over him when he has not been found to be an unfit parent

Press release

Detroit Free Press: Court shake-up bill may speed to Snyder

"A bill that changes the way lawsuits against the state are handled — not just in Ingham County, but across Michigan — could land on Gov. Rick Snyder's desk as early as Wednesday. Senate Bill 652, which strips the Michigan Court of Claims from the Ingham County Circuit Court and expands the jurisdiction of the Court of Claims to include a significant but still undetermined range of cases now heard in county circuit courts, is expected to receive final House passage as early as Wednesday."

Full story

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Ingham County could lose money, judgeship with transfer of Court of Claims

Full story

The Detroit News: Bill to move Michigan's Court of Claims moves forward, could go to Snyder Wednesday

Full story

Crain's Detroit Business: Bill to shift Court of Claims moves quickly, reaches state House floor

Full story

Lansing State Journal: Editorial: Slow down on moving Court of Claims

Full story

MLive.com: Former staffer: Michigan GOP 'rigging the deck' with fast-tracked bill to move suits against state

Full story

The Detroit News: Supreme Court reinstates sentence in '00 killing

"The [U.S.] Supreme Court has reinstated a prison term of at least 20 years for a Michigan transgender woman convicted of murdering her wealthy uncle with vodka to pay for a sex change operation. The court, in its first opinion of the term Tuesday, unanimously reversed a federal appeals court that ruled Vonlee Titlow deserves a shorter sentence because she received bad advice from a lawyer who urged her to withdraw from a plea agreement."

Full story

Also see:

MLive.com: US Supreme Court reinstates prison sentence in ineffective assistance case

Full story

Associated Press: \$480K verdict stands in contaminated condo case

"The Michigan appeals court has upheld a \$480,000 verdict for a couple who bought a condominium in a Lake Michigan town without knowing the ground around the building was contaminated. Gary and Kathleen Bowman paid \$360,000 for a condo in South Haven where they often visited on vacations."

Full story

Note: This Associated Press article also ran in the Detroit Free Press, the Detroit News and other media outlets.

Battle Creek Enquirer: Locals ahead of the curve on supporting youngsters

"While Michigan is lagging in some areas, local initiatives put Battle Creek and Calhoun County ahead of the curve on a number of recommendations for supporting young families listed in a report released Monday.... [Some of the recommendations include] ... bills pending in the Legislature would expand Mental Health Courts, an alternative to criminal courts for people with mental health issues."

Full story

Detroit Legal News: Judge Sapala wins LAD Pioneer of Justice Award

"Legal Aid and Defender Association has announced that Michael F. Sapala, retired Wayne County Circuit Court judge, is the winner of its 2013 Ed Pokorny Pioneer of Justice Award. The award is one of nine 'Laddys' bestowed on members of the legal community for their pro bono service to LAD clients."

Full story

Detroit Legal News: Supportive Act

"The Salvation Army William Booth Legal Clinic and the Legal Aid and Defender office held a free event Oct. 26 at the Detroit Library to help Wayne County residents with child support issues. Among those on hand were Chief Referee David Calandro, Family Division Judge Kathleen M. McCarthy, and Friend of the Court Zenell Brown."

Full story

Detroit Legal News: Language of the Law; Book is compilation of attorney's columns and essays on style

"The author of a new book on language and its role in the law believes that laughing while you learn can make the lesson more effective.... [Mark Cooney] is also a founding board member for the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society's Advocates Guild."

Full story

Grand Rapids Legal News: William B. Murphy reappointed as Court of Appeals Chief Judge

"The Michigan Supreme Court has announced that Court of Appeals Judge William B. Murphy, who was appointed to the Court in 1988 and has served as chief judge since November 2009, will continue as chief judge through 2014. As chief judge, Murphy administers internal operations including finances, case management, and work assignments."

[*Full story*](#)

Jackson Citizen Patriot: Program aimed at preventing school expulsion or suspension to expand to Vandercook Lake Middle School

"A \$7,500 grant from the Jackson Community Foundation will expand a program that attempts to keep kids in school through mediation versus expulsion. The Restorative Justice Suspension and Expulsion Project will expand to students at Vandercook Lake Middle School. With the funds, volunteers and staff at the school will be trained in restorative justice and peer mediation techniques, according to Marc Stanley from the Southeastern Dispute Resolution Services."

[*Full story*](#)

The Macomb Daily: Macomb County officials to help develop state-court smart-phone app

"Macomb court officials will help develop a smart phone application that could be used by all courts in Michigan. Macomb officials will partner with officials from Oakland and Wayne circuit courts, 63rd District Court in Grand Rapids and Wayne County Probate Court to design and implement an 'app' for the court system, the state Supreme Court said in a press release last week."

[*Full story*](#)

Also see:

Court Performance Innovation grant recipients named; projects include human trafficking court, peacemaking court, smart phone apps, social media

[*Press release*](#)

The Macomb Daily: Macomb plans \$61 million overhaul of county buildings

"... In addition to the County Building, changes would be in store for the Administration Building, the courthouse and two facilities located in an adjacent shopping center. The 36-year-old, 600-space county parking structure, which is literally crumbling in places, may be demolished and replaced as part of this multi-phase project. The moves would mean resettling some of the county's busiest departments, including the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court, Juvenile Court and Friend of the Court."

[*Full story*](#)

The News-Herald/Southgate: LANSING: Court of Appeals rules for, against Detroit Lions in suit against Allen Park

"The Michigan Court of Appeals ruled both in favor and against the city late last month regarding a tax issue on the Detroit Lions training facility in Allen Park. The initial complaints were filed by both the Detroit Lions and WCF Land, a company owned by Lions owner William Clay Ford, contesting the tax assessments against the training facility that sits in both Allen Park and Dearborn."

[*Full story*](#)

NPR News: Secret Persuasion: How Big Campaign Donors Stay Anonymous

"... Dan Pero, head of the social welfare group that ran the attack ad against Michigan Supreme Court Justice Alton Davis — and which NPR and CRP profiled yesterday ... Davis, who lost the election to keep his seat on the bench, says, 'The old labels don't mean anything. Republican doesn't mean anything. Democrat doesn't mean anything. It's the huge money and everybody else. That's the deal now, I think, going forward. Up and down the road.' "

[*Full story*](#)

The Oakland County Legal News: Japanese judge to present seminar at Wayne Law

"Japanese Judge Naoki Takaishi will present a free seminar on Wednesday, Nov. 13, comparing American and Japanese criminal procedure, one of several events planned at Wayne State University to celebrate International Education Week. The seminar will take place from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. in the third-floor faculty lounge at Wayne State University Law School, 471 W. Palmer Street."

[Full story](#)

WXMI-TV(17)/Grand Rapids: Perjury Appeal Denied in Amanda Lankey Murder Investigation

"Michigan Supreme Court announced Thursday that they would not hear an appeal case connected to the 2004 murder of White Cloud teen Amanda Lankey. Candace Wallis-Baumgartner, a former White Cloud police officer, is awaiting trial in Newaygo County for perjury after police say she lied under oath during the investigation into Lankey's murder. The case has been on hold while she appealed the charges."

[Full story](#)